

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 12, 14-23 and 26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 10, 11, 13, 24 and 25 are canceled. Claims 1, 6, 12, 14 and 19 are amended, and new claim 26 is added.

The features of new claim 26 are disclosed at, e.g., Figs. 5a and 5b.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,491,447 to Aihara. This rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to amended independent claim 1, Aihara does not disclose an optical socket having guide surfaces to position the optical plug, the guide surfaces including two surfaces substantially parallel to each other and substantially orthogonal to the another surface of the transparent substrate, and one surface substantially parallel to the another surface of the transparent substrate. See, e.g., Figs. 5 and 6. In Aihara, the guide surface 52 shown in Fig. 8a is inclined with respect to the substrate 31.

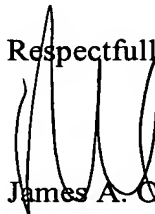
With respect to claim 6, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Office Action's assertion that the prismatic protrusion 31a is equivalent to a second lens. Instead, the prismatic protrusion 31a is merely a structure in which the reflecting surface 34 is formed. Thus, Aihara does not disclose a second lens as in amended claim 6.

With respect to new claim 26, Aihara does not disclose a first lens arranged on the one surface side of the transparent substrate and including a convex portion arranged on the transparent substrate. See, e.g., Fig. 1. Instead, Aihara discloses the convex part of lens 45 is on the another surface side of the substrate 31 and the convex part of lens 45 faces away from the another surface side of the substrate 31.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 5, 2005

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